Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, There are nearly 1.7 million individuals living in 17,000 nursing homes and 1 million individuals living in 46,000 board and care/assisted living facilities in the United States; and,

Whereas, Residents of long-term care facilities include those whose dedicated service during World War II and hard work in the post-war years made this nation great; and,

Whereas, The federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights in order to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and,

Whereas, All residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination; and,

Whereas, We wish to honor and celebrate these citizens, to recognize their rich individuality, and to reaffirm their rights as community members and citizens, including the right to vote; and,

Whereas, Individuals and groups across the country will be celebrating Residents' Rights Week with the theme, "Spotlight on Quality: Focus on Residents' Rights" to emphasize the importance of affirming these rights through facility practices, public policy, and resident-centered decision-making that impacts quality of care and quality of life:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 3 - 9, 2004, as

LONG - TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State